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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/689,323	CUNNAGIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chad Dickerson	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *20 October 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *10/20/2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *see attachment*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-20 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- Re claim 1: on line 5, the phrase "from the group" is suggested to be changed to -- from a group --. The claims 2-14 are also objected because of their dependency on claim 1.
- Re claim 15: on line 28, the phrase "from the group" is suggested to be changed to -- from a group --. The claims 16-18 are also objected because of their dependency on claim 15.
- Re claim 19: on line 27, the phrase "from the group" is suggested to be changed to -- from a group --.
- Re claim 20: on line 13, the phrase "from the group" is suggested to be changed to -- from a group --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-5, 7-14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cousins '509 (US Pub No 2004/0196509).

Re claim 1: Cousins '509 discloses a simple and configurable all-in-one operator panel comprising:

a) a machine which is adapted to function as at least two different devices, wherein the at least two different devices are chosen from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a facsimile device, and a photo card reader (i.e. illustrated in figure 3, the machine (16) includes both a printer and a scanner subsystem and these subsystems perform the function of being two different devices that perform scanning and printing functions in the multifunctional device; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0015]-[0021]), and wherein the machine includes machine controller electronics which alone, when activated, enables the machine to function as all of the at least two different devices (i.e. when the machine (16) is not used in connection with a host computer, the machine (16) can perform the functions of copying, scanning and printing alone from the external connection to the host computer; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0015]-[0021]);

b) a first operator panel which is removably attachable to the machine and which when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least one of the at least two different devices (i.e. the printer subsystem (24), considered as the first operator panel, may be mounted on the machine (16) in any suitable form and this is considered to perform the function of being removably attachable to the machine. Also, with the printing subsystem having electronic and mechanical elements that together effect the machine (16) in performing the printing operation, this performs the function of having the elements interface with the machine electronics to selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine (16) to function as a printer, which is at least one of the two different devices. This invention is also similar to the conventional all-in-one printing system mentioned in the background of the invention; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004] and [0015]-[0021]); and

c) a second operator panel which is removably attachable to the machine instead of the first operator panel and which when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least a different one of the at least two different devices (i.e. the scanning subsystem (26), considered as the second operator panel, can also be mounted on the machine (16) in any suitable manner and this is considered to perform the function of being removably attachable to the machine. Since the scanning subsystem can include any suitable electronic and mechanical elements that

together effect the scanning function of the machine (16), this is considered to be analogous to having the panel interface with the machine (16) and activate the electronics to enable the machine to function the different function of the at least different devices; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004] and [0015]-[0021]).

Re claim 2: The teachings of Cousins '509 are disclosed above.
Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the machine controller electronics, when activated by the first or second operator panel, enables the machine to operate in a computer-host-based mode (i.e. when the machine (16) is used by the respective subsystems, as operator panels, or multifunctional machine user interfaces, these may allow the printer to perform either printing or scanning under the control of a connected computer, which is analogous to operating in a computer-host-based mode; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0006] and [0015]-[0021]).

Re claim 3: The teachings of Cousins '509 are disclosed above.
Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the machine controller electronics, when activated by the first or second operator panel; enables the machine to operate in a stand-alone-based mode (i.e. when the machine electronics of the machine (16) are effected by the multifunctional machine user interfaces, the machine may be able to operate in a manner without the control of an external computer, but simply with the controls on the machine (16). Since the machine (16) may work alone without the

computer, this is considered as the stand-alone mode; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004] and [0015]-[0021]).

Re claim 4: The teachings of Cousins '509 are disclosed above.
Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the machine controller electronics, when activated by the first or second operator panel, enables the machine to selectively operate in a computer-host-based mode and in a stand-alone-based mode (i.e. in the invention, both modes can be performed. In another example, with the machine (16) having buttons that can perform printing or scanning when these buttons are pressed shows an example of the stand-alone mode. In this same example, when an other button is activated, the button allows for a graphical user interface on a host computer to control the functions on the machine in the process; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004]-[0008], [0015]-[0021] and [0049]).

Re claim 5: The teachings of Cousins '509 are disclosed above.
Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the machine controller electronics, when activated by the first or second operator panel, enables the machine to operate in a computer-host-based mode, and wherein the second operator panel includes operator-panel controller electronics which together with the machine controller electronics enables the machine to also selectively operate in a stand-alone-based mode (i.e. shown paragraph [0024], a Scan/Resume button in figure 2 is pressed and this causes the host computer in the system to set scan parameters and other options in relation to

scanning in the system. This is an example of the machine operating in a computer-host-based mode and the operation panel used to hold the Scan/Resume button can be considered as the first or second operator panel. In another example, an operator panel on the copy machine with a one-button embodiment performs the copy operation when pressed without any intervention from the host computer. This is an example of machine being operated in a stand-alone-based mode with the operator panel on the machine being activated being considered as the second operator panel; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004], [0015]-[0021] and [0024]).

Re claim 7: The teachings of Cousins '509 are disclosed above.
Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the first operator panel includes a first set of at least one push button operatively connected to the machine controller electronics to at least in part selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least one of the at least two different devices when the first operator panel is attached to the machine (i.e. the printer subsystem (24), considered as the first operator panel, can be mounted on the machines with buttons on the operator panel. In figure 1, the operator panel on the machine has at least one button and this button may allow the machine (16) in the system to print a copy of a document. This performs the feature of having at least one button on the operator panel that is operatively connected to the machine controller electronics to selectively activate the machine to perform a function. This is also similar to the prior art mentioned in the

background of the invention; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004], [0005] and [0015]-[0021]), and

wherein the second operator panel includes a second set of at least one push button operatively connected to the machine controller electronics to at least in part selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least a different one of the at least two different devices when the second operator panel is attached to the machine instead of the first operator panel (i.e. the scanner subsystem (26), considered as the second operator panel, also includes a set of at least one push buttons shown in figure 2. The push buttons on the subsystem that is mounted on the machine, which is considered as an operator panel, is able to activate the electronics on the machine to perform a function that is different from the first operator panel when it is attached, or mounted, on the machine. This is also similar to the prior art mentioned in the background of the invention; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004] and [0015]-[0021]).

Re claim 8: The teachings of Cousins '509 are disclosed above.
Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the first operator panel includes a first display screen, wherein the second operator panel includes a second display screen, and wherein the machine controller electronics is adapted to display at least one message on the second display screen but not on the first display screen (i.e. with the printer and scanning subsystems (24 and 26) being considered as operator panels which can be mounted on the machine (16), these subsystems can also have displays

that can be either displays with virtual buttons on a touch-screen or simply a display with separate buttons. These subsystems with the displays can be considered all together as a first display screen. With the computer being used in this system, the computer having an operator panel with a keyboard, monitor and mouse, this can also be considered as an operator panel since it can be used to change the operation of the machine (16). This can be considered as the second operator panel that includes a second display and this display can be used to display messages to the user, while the first operator display can be only used to display virtual buttons on the display screen; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004], [0005] and [0015]-[0021]).

Re claim 9: The teachings of Cousins '509 are disclosed above.
Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the first operator panel lacks a display screen and wherein the second operator panel includes a display screen (i.e. with the multifunctional machine user interface having a operator panel, this panel can be various things. One example of the operator panel is simply a panel with electronic buttons. This can be used as the operator panel as long as the user has inputs into the system and this example also lacks a display screen. However, with the use of a host computer in the system and the consideration of this computer as a operator panel, the host computer can be used as the second operator panel that includes a display screen, which will perform the above feature; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004], [0005] and [0015]-[0021]).

Re claim 10: The teachings of Cousins '509 are disclosed above.

Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the first operator panel includes a first identification code which is recognizable by the machine controller electronics, wherein the second operator panel includes a second identification code which is recognizable by the machine controller electronics and which is different than the first identification code (i.e. with the printer and scanning subsystems (24 and 26) being considered as the operator panels, since they can be mounted on the machine (16) and have electronic and mechanical elements that effect the multifunctional machine (16), these subsystems both have different electronic components that differentiate the printer subsystem from the scanning subsystem. It is believed that the different identification codes in the different subsystems is performed in Cousins '509 since both subsystems can be mounted on the machine (16) and the machine has to be able to differentiate between the mounting of the printer and scanner subsystems; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004] and [0015]-[0021]).

Re claim 11: The teachings of Cousins '509 are disclosed above.

Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the first operator panel includes a first set of at least one push button operatively connected to the machine controller electronics to at least in part selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least one of the at least two different devices when the first operator panel is attached to the machine (i.e. the printer subsystem (24), considered as the first operator panel, can be mounted on the machines with buttons on the

operator panel. In figure 1, the operator panel on the machine has at least one button and this button may allow the machine (16) in the system to print a copy of a document. This performs the feature of having at least one button on the operator panel that is operatively connected to the machine controller electronics to selectively activate the machine to perform a function. This is also similar to the prior art mentioned in the background of the invention; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004], [0005] and [0015]-[0021]), and

wherein the second operator panel includes a second set of at least one push button operatively connected to the machine controller electronics to at least in part selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least a different one of the at least two different devices when the second operator panel is attached to the machine instead of the first operator panel (i.e. the scanner subsystem (26), considered as the second operator panel, also includes a set of at least one push buttons shown in figure 2. The push buttons on the subsystem that is mounted on the machine, which is considered as an operator panel, is able to activate the electronics on the machine to perform a function that is different from the first operator panel when it is attached, or mounted, on the machine. This is also similar to the prior art mentioned in the background of the invention; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004] and [0015]-[0021]).

Re claim 12: The teachings of Cousins '509 are disclosed above.

Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the first operator panel includes a first display screen, wherein the second operator panel includes a second display screen, and wherein the machine controller electronics is adapted to display at least one message on the second display screen but not on the first display screen (i.e. with the printer and scanning subsystems (24 and 26) being considered as operator panels which can be mounted on the machine (16), these subsystems can also have displays that can be either displays with virtual buttons on a touch-screen or simply a display with separate buttons. These subsystems with the displays can be considered all together as a first display screen. With the computer being used in this system, the computer having an operator panel with a keyboard, monitor and mouse, this can also be considered as an operator panel since it can be used to change the operation of the machine (16). This can be considered as the second operator panel that includes a second display and this display can be used to display messages to the user, while the first operator display can be only used to display virtual buttons on the display screen; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004], [0005] and [0015]-[0021]).

Re claim 13: The teachings of Cousins '509 are disclosed above.
Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the first operator panel lacks a display screen and wherein the second operator panel includes a display screen (i.e. with the multifunctional machine user interface having a operator panel, this panel can be various things. One example of the operator panel is simply a panel with electronic buttons. This can be used as the operator panel as long as the user has inputs into the

system and this example also lacks a display screen. However, with the use of a host computer in the system and the consideration of this computer as a operator panel, the host computer can be used as the second operator panel that includes a display screen, which will perform the above feature; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004], [0005] and [0015]-[0021]).

Re claim 14: The teachings of Cousins '509 are disclosed above.
Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the first operator panel includes a first identification code which is recognizable by the machine controller electronics, wherein the second operator panel includes a second identification code which is recognizable by the machine controller electronics and which is different than the first identification code (i.e. with the printer and scanning subsystems (24 and 26) being considered as the operator panels, since they can be mounted on the machine (16) and have electronic and mechanical elements that effect the multifunctional machine (16), these subsystems both have different electronic components that differentiate the printer subsystem from the scanning subsystem. It is believed that the different identification codes in the different subsystems is performed in Cousins '509 since both subsystems can be mounted on the machine (16) and the machine has to be able to differentiate between the mounting of the printer and scanner subsystems; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004] and [0015]-[0021]).

Re claim 19: Cousins '509 discloses a simple and configurable all-in-one operator panel comprising:

a machine which is adapted to function as at least two different devices (i.e. the machine (16) is adapted to operate as two different devices since it is able to accept two different subsystems that allow for the different functions to occur; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004]-[0008] and [0015]-[0021]),

wherein the at least two different devices are chosen from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a facsimile device, and a photo card reader (i.e. illustrated in figure 3, the machine (16) includes both a printer and a scanner subsystem and these subsystems perform the function of being two different devices that perform scanning and printing functions in the multifunctional device; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0015]-[0021]),

wherein the machine includes machine controller electronics which alone, when activated, enables the machine to function as all of the at least two different devices (i.e. when the machine (16) is not used in connection with a host computer, the machine (16) can perform the functions of copying, scanning and printing alone from the external connection to the host computer; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0015]-[0021]),

wherein the machine is adapted to receive a first operator panel and to receive a second operator panel instead of the first operator panel (i.e. the printer subsystem and the scanner subsystem is considered as the first and second operator panels which the machine (16) receives; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0015]-[0021]),

wherein the first operator panel is removably attachable to the machine and when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least one of the at least two different devices (i.e. the printer subsystem (24), considered as the first operator panel, may be mounted on the machine (16) in any suitable form and this is considered to perform the function of being removably attachable to the machine. Also, with the printing subsystem having electronic and mechanical elements that together effect the machine (16) in performing the printing operation, this performs the function of having the elements interface with the machine electronics to selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine (16) to function as a printer, which is at least one of the two different devices. This invention is also similar to the conventional all-in-one printing system mentioned in the background of the invention; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004] and [0015]-[0021]), and

wherein the second operator panel is removably attachable to the machine instead of the first operator panel and when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to selectively activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to function as at least a different one of the at least two different devices (i.e. the scanning subsystem (26), considered as the second operator panel, can also be mounted on the machine (16) in any suitable manner and this is considered to perform the function of being removably attachable to the machine. Since the scanning subsystem can include any suitable electronic and mechanical elements that

together effect the scanning function of the machine (16), this is considered to be analogous to having the panel interface with the machine (16) and activate the electronics to enable the machine to function the different function of the at least different devices; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004] and [0015]-[0021]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

P. 7/18/05

5. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ~~Wood '934~~ Cousins '509 in view of Oyannagi '300 (US Pub No 2002/0044300).

Re claim 6: The teachings of Cousins '509 are disclosed above.

Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the operator-panel controller electronics includes print formatting application-specific-integrated-circuit (ASIC) (i.e. in Cousins '509, the host computer that communicates and controls the machine (16) in regards to processing can be considered as a operator-panel and this operator-panel has controller electronics that are able to format a print job so that a certain print job can be printed as a photograph or a document. This aspect of the invention uses the circuitry of the scanner for choosing which parts of a document to scan and a printer for

formatting the manner in which the document will be printed; see figs. 4 and 5; paragraphs [0021]-[0038]).

However, Cousins '509 fails to teach rasterizing and a memory operatively connected to the ASIC.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Oyannagi '300. Oyannagi '300 discloses rasterizing and a memory operatively connected to the ASIC (i.e. in paragraphs [0058] and [0059], the system has an interlaced memory (26) that is connected to the printer ASIC (20) in order to transmit information to the printer ASIC (20). Since the printer ASIC (20) controls the printer engine (22), the printer engine is able to print a raster based on the image data stored in the interlaced memory (26); see fig. 1; paragraphs [0058] and [0059]).

Therefore, in view of Oyannagi '300, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have rasterizing and a memory operatively connected to the ASIC in order to have a printer, using a printer ASIC, to print stored data into a raster image (as stated in Oyannagi '300 paragraphs [0058] and [0059]).

6. Claims 15, 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cousins '509 in view of the admitted prior art.

Re claim 15: Cousins '509 discloses a simple and configurable all-in-one operator panel comprising:

a) a machine which is adapted to function as at least one device, wherein the at least one device is chosen from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a facsimile device, and a photo card reader (i.e. illustrated in figure 3, the machine (16) includes both a printer and a scanner subsystem and these subsystems perform the function of being two different devices that perform scanning and printing functions in the multifunctional device; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0015]-[0021]), and wherein the machine includes machine controller electronics which alone, when activated, enables the machine to operate in a computer-host-based mode (i.e. when the machine (16) is not used in connection with a host computer, the machine (16) can perform the functions of copying, scanning and printing alone from the external connection to the host computer. However, when the Scan/Resume button on the machine alone is activated, the system allows for the host computer to interact with the scanning parameters in the system and making the system operate in a computer-host-based mode; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0015]-[0024]);

b) a first operator panel which is removably attachable to the machine and which when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to operate in the computer-host-based mode, wherein the machine cannot operate in a stand-alone-based mode when the first operator panel is attached to the machine (i.e. when printer subsystem is used in the system, the printer subsystem can be mounted on the machine (16) to interface with the machine and effect the printing function in Cousins '509 . In regards to the printing function, the host computer can transmit print data to

the print subsystem and the printing subsystem will enable the machine (16) to print the print data if paper is provided in the multifunctional machine (16); see figs.1-3; paragraphs [0004], [0005] and [0046]-[0048]); and

c) a second operator panel which is removably attachable to the machine and to activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to also function in the computer-host-based mode (i.e. with using the scanner in the system, the user may have the scanning subsystem execute a scanning operation with the scanner and have the scanned information sent to a host computer for further image processing and determinations. The scanning subsystem is removably attachable to the machine (16) and is able to interact with the machine to effect the scanning abilities of the device; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004]-[0008] and [0015]-[0037]).

However, Cousins '509 fails to teach a second operator panel which is removably attachable to the machine instead of the first operator panel, which has operator-panel controller electronics for the machine to operate in the stand-alone-based mode, and which when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to operate the machine in the stand-alone-based mode.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by the admitted prior art. The admitted prior art discloses a second operator panel which is removably attachable to the machine instead of the first operator panel, which has operator-panel controller electronics for the machine to operate in the stand-alone-based mode, and which when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to operate the machine in the stand-alone-based mode (i.e. in the admitted prior art, the second

control panel can replace the first control panel to enable the machine to operate as a scanner. The second operation panel operates allows the machine to operate in stand-alone-based mode since the second operation panel allows the machine to operate simply as a scanner with no communication with a computer and can be simply operated without a computer; see page 1, lines 8-23).

Therefore, in view of the admitted prior art, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have a second operator panel which is removably attachable to the machine instead of the first operator panel, which has operator-panel controller electronics for the machine to operate in the stand-alone-based mode, and which when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to operate the machine in the stand-alone-based mode in order to have a second operation panel replace a first operation panel to allow the machine to operate in a different manner (as stated in the background of the invention page 1, lines 8-23).

Re claim 17: The teachings of Cousins '509 in view of the admitted prior art are disclosed above.

Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the first operator panel includes a first identification code which is recognizable by the machine controller electronics, wherein the second operator panel includes a second identification code which is recognizable by the machine controller electronics and which is different than the first identification code (i.e. with the printer and scanning subsystems (24 and 26) being considered as

the operator panels, since they can be mounted on the machine (16) and have electronic and mechanical elements that effect the multifunctional machine (16), these subsystems both have different electronic components that differentiate the printer subsystem from the scanning subsystem. It is believed that the different identification codes in the different subsystems is performed in Cousins '509 since both subsystems can be mounted on the machine (16) and the machine has to be able to differentiate between the mounting of the printer and scanner subsystems; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004] and [0015]-[0021]).

Re claim 20: Cousins '509 discloses a simple and configurable all-in-one operator panel comprising

a machine which is adapted to function as at least one device (i.e. with the machine (16) able to receive at least one subsystem performing some function, the machine is adapted to perform a function of at least one device; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004]-[0008] and [0015]-[0021]),

wherein the at least one device is chosen from the group consisting of a printer, a copier, a scanner, a facsimile device, and a photo card reader (i.e. illustrated in figure 3, the machine (16) includes both a printer and a scanner subsystem and these subsystems perform the function of being two different devices that perform scanning and printing functions in the multifunctional device; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0015]-[0021]),

wherein the machine includes machine controller electronics which alone, when activated, enables the machine to operate in a computer-host-based mode (i.e. when the machine (16) is not used in connection with a host computer, the machine (16) can perform the functions of copying, scanning and printing alone from the external connection to the host computer. However, when the Scan/Resume button on the machine alone is activated, the system allows for the host computer to interact with the scanning parameters in the system and making the system operate in a computer-host-based mode; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0015]-[0024]),

wherein the machine is adapted to receive a first operator panel and to receive a second operator panel instead of the first operator panel (i.e. since both the printer and the scanning subsystems can be mounted on the machine (16), then it is believed that either one of the subsystems can be placed on the multifunctional machine (16) so that one or both of the subsystems can be placed on the machine (16); see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004]-[0008] and [0015]-[0021]),

wherein the first operator panel is removably attachable to the machine and when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to operate in the computer-host-based mode (i.e. when printer subsystem is used in the system, the printer subsystem can be mounted on the machine (16) to interface with the machine and effect the printing function in Cousins '509. In regards to the printing function, the host computer can transmit print data to the print subsystem and the printing subsystem

will enable the machine (16) to print the print data if paper is provided in the multifunctional machine (16); see figs.1-3; paragraphs [0004], [0005] and [0046]-[0048]),

wherein the machine cannot operate in a stand-alone-based mode when the first operator panel is attached to the machine (i.e. when the computer sends data directly to the printer subsystem, the machine (16) cannot operate in a stand-alone-based mode; see figs.1-3; paragraphs [0004], [0005] and [0046]-[0048]), and

wherein the second operator panel is removably attachable to the machine and to activate the machine controller electronics to enable the machine to also function in the computer-host-based mode (i.e. with using the scanner in the system, the user may have the scanning subsystem execute a scanning operation with the scanner and have the scanned information sent to a host computer for further image processing and determinations. The scanning subsystem is removably attachable to the machine (16) and is able to interact with the machine to effect the scanning abilities of the device; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0004]-[0008] and [0015]-[0037]).

However, Cousins '509 fails to teach the second operator panel is removably attachable to the machine instead of the first operator panel, has operator-panel controller electronics for the machine to operate in the stand-alone-based mode, and when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to operate the machine in the stand-alone-based mode.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by the admitted prior art. The admitted prior art discloses the second operator panel is removably attachable to the machine instead of the first operator panel, has operator-panel controller electronics for

the machine to operate in the stand-alone-based mode, and when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to operate the machine in the stand-alone-based mode (i.e. in the admitted prior art, the second control panel can replace the first control panel to enable the machine to operate as a scanner. The second operation panel operates allows the machine to operate in stand-alone-based mode since the second operation panel allows the machine to operate simply as a scanner with no communication with a computer and can be simply operated without a computer; see page 1, lines 8-23).

Therefore, in view of the admitted prior art, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the second operator panel removably attachable to the machine instead of the first operator panel, has operator-panel controller electronics for the machine to operate in the stand-alone-based mode, and when attached to the machine interfaces with the machine controller electronics to operate the machine in the stand-alone-based mode in order to have a second operation panel replace a first operation panel to allow the machine to operate in a different manner (as stated in the background of the invention page 1, lines 8-23).

7. Claims 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cousins '509, as modified by the admitted prior art, and further in view of Oyannagi '300 (US Pub No 2002/0044300).

Re claim 16: The teachings of Cousins '509 in view of the admitted prior art are disclosed above.

Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the operator-panel controller electronics includes print formatting application-specific-integrated-circuit (ASIC) (i.e. in Cousins '509, the host computer that communicates and controls the machine (16) in regards to processing can be considered as a operator-panel and this operator-panel has controller electronics that are able to format a print job so that a certain print job can be printed as a photograph or a document. This aspect of the invention uses the circuitry of the scanner for choosing which parts of a document to scan and a printer for formatting the manner in which the document will be printed; see figs. 4 and 5; paragraphs [0021]-[0038]).

However, Cousins '509 in view of the admitted prior art fails to teach rasterizing and a memory operatively connected to the ASIC.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Oyannagi '300. Oyannagi '300 discloses wherein the operator-panel controller electronics includes print formatting application-specific-integrated-circuit (ASIC) (i.e. in paragraphs [0058] and [0059], the system has an interlaced memory (26) that is connected to the printer ASIC (20) in order to transmit information to the printer ASIC (20). Since the printer ASIC (20) controls the printer engine (22), the printer engine is able to print a raster based on the image data stored in the interlaced memory (26); see fig. 1; paragraphs [0058] and [0059]).

Therefore, in view of Oyannagi '300, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have rasterizing and a memory operatively connected to the ASIC in order to have a printer, using a printer ASIC, to print stored data into a raster image (as stated in Oyannagi '300 paragraphs [0058] and [0059]).

Re claim 18: The teachings of Cousins '509 in view of the admitted prior art are disclosed above.

Cousins '509 discloses the system, wherein the operator-panel controller electronics includes print formatting application-specific-integrated-circuit (ASIC) (i.e. in Cousins '509, the host computer that communicates and controls the machine (16) in regards to processing can be considered as a operator-panel and this operator-panel has controller electronics that are able to format a print job so that a certain print job can be printed as a photograph or a document. This aspect of the invention uses the circuitry of the scanner for choosing which parts of a document to scan and a printer for formatting the manner in which the document will be printed; see figs. 4 and 5; paragraphs [0021]-[0038]).

However, Cousins '509 in view of the admitted prior art fails to teach a rasterizing and a memory operatively connected to the ASIC.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Oyannagi '300. Oyannagi '300 discloses a rasterizing and a memory operatively connected to the ASIC (i.e. in paragraphs [0058] and [0059], the system has an interlaced memory (26) that is

connected to the printer ASIC (20) in order to transmit information to the printer ASIC (20). Since the printer ASIC (20) controls the printer engine (22), the printer engine is able to print a raster based on the image data stored in the interlaced memory (26); see fig. 1; paragraphs [0058] and [0059]).

Therefore, in view of Oyannagi '300, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have rasterizing and a memory operatively connected to the ASIC in order to have a printer, using a printer ASIC, to print stored data into a raster image (as stated in Oyannagi '300 paragraphs [0058] and [0059]).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. The admitted prior art still performs the function of having a first operator panel, which is removably attachable to the machine and a second operator panel that is also removably attachable to the machine. Both of these operator panels enable the machine to function as at least one of the two different devices. These operator panels also allow for system to operate in a stand-alone-based mode in which the machine can operate in without the assistance of a host computer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Dickerson whose telephone number is (571)-270-

1351. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Thur. 9:00-6:30 Fri. 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on (571)- 272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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